

Historic
Landmarks (T.H.)

Gone, but not forgotten

Sp DEC 29 1979



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WILEY HIGH SCHOOL

from the editor

Our Anniversary

With this issue, The Spectator notes the 75th anniversary of its publication, putting it among the oldest, consecutively published newspapers in the state which haven't undergone mergers or name changes.

Not a lot is known about The Spectator's history. The first 25 or so years the publication was under the leadership of one of the founders, Don Nixon. After that, Miss N.C. Williams was the publisher and general manager until the 1950s. The late Ferrall Rippetoe took the paper into the late 1960s. He was succeeded by Cork McHargue and then in 1974 by myself.

Earlier this year, we requested information from our readers about the history of The Spectator, and several responses came in. One of the most unusual came from Stella Rutherford Peters, who worked on the first issue.

Here is her remembrance:

"In 1904 I was working in the Rutherford Print Shop operated by Jack and Eli Rutherford. It was located upstairs in the 600 block of Wabash Ave., southside. That summer, Don Nixon, Jack and Eli put out the first edition of The Spectator at the Rutherford Print Shop.

"I was a seventeen-year-old girl, named Stella Knight, engaged to Eli Rutherford and later became his wife. Among other duties, I fed the presses. In fact, I still have a flattened finger because I was once a little slow on the draw.

"I earned three dollars a week, a fair salary for a young working girl in those days."

Mrs. Peters, the widow of the late Ernest Peters, (Mr. Rutherford died in 1920), is now living in Toledo, Ohio. She has a very good memory and recalls many early Terre Haute events.

Many things have happened at The Spectator during the 75 years of its existence. Not surprisingly, many things are still the same. As readers of our 50 years ago column note, it is sometimes difficult to tell the difference between the problems of today and those of yesteryear.

As The Spectator marks its 75th birthday, we are looking forward to more years of service to Terre Haute and to its citizens.

Fred J. Nation, Editor

The Spectator

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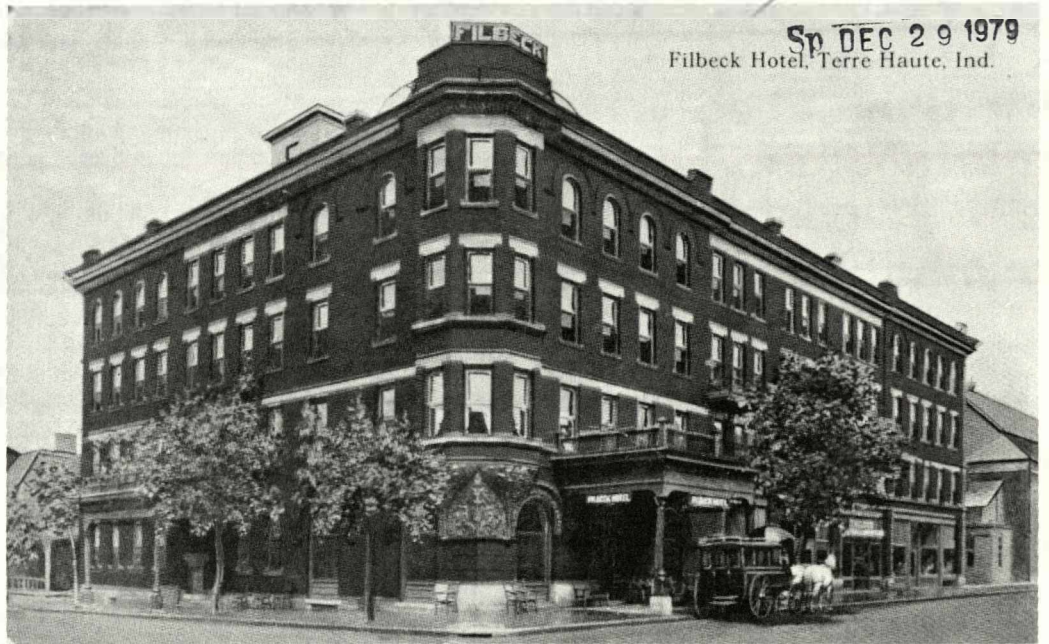
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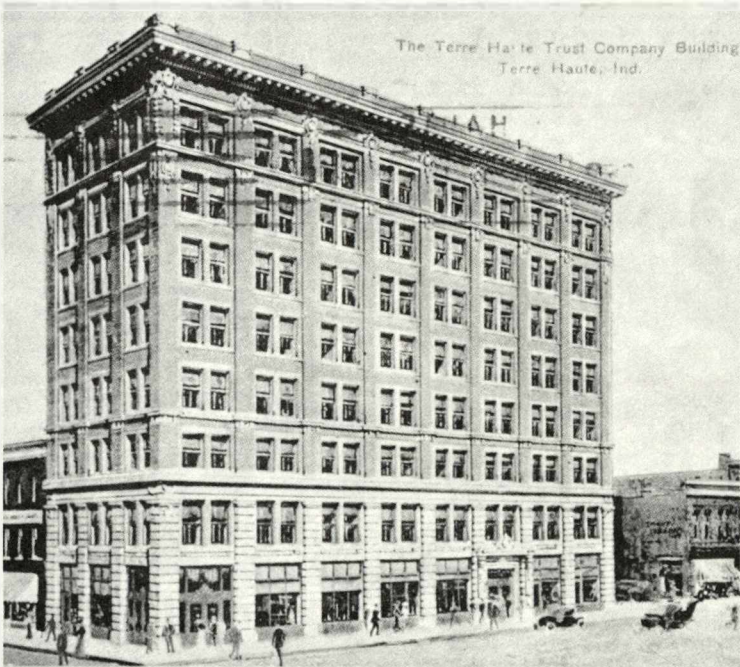
Terre Haute Yesteryear

Many landmarks of Terre Haute are gone, victims of the wrecker's ball. Others are still in service, sometimes modified. On these pages are postcards from the collection of Mrs. Nancy Nation of Terre Haute, along with some other old photographs.

The Filbeck Hotel, right, once stood on the northeast corner of Fifth and Cherry Streets.



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Filbeck Hotel, Terre Haute, Ind.



The Terre Haute Trust Company Building
Terre Haute, Ind.



Post Office, Terre Haute, Ind.

Terre Haute Trust, upper left, is now known as the Merchants National Bank Building, Seventh and Wabash. The old Post Office stood on the site of the current Federal Building. The facade of the old building is in Fairbanks Park. Built 1884-1887 TORN DOWN 1935



The Old Terre Haute House, predecessor to the current building.



Deming Hotel, now Deming Center.

Forrest G. Sherer: A Terre Haute leader

Mr. Sherer had a love for the city, its past and future

By Fred J. Nation

Forrest G. Sherer wasn't only interested in learning about Terre Haute history -- he was interested in making it.

A year ago, *The Spectator* profiled Mr. Sherer on the occasion of the publication of his collection of Omer D. "Salty" Seamon watercolors of historic Terre Haute. Two months later on Feb. 22, 1979, Mr. Sherer died suddenly shortly after his return from a Florida vacation.

With his death, the community lost one of its most powerful and influential leaders. Mr. Sherer knew the levers of power in Terre Haute, and he used them many times for the benefit of the community. While he was being interviewed a year ago, he took the time to make several telephone calls to raise enough money to save and restore the painting of frontier Terre Haute then hanging in the old Deming Hotel. Recently, it was hung again in the refurbished Deming Center, another tribute to Mr. Sherer's interest in the community.

While he is gone, his name will live on, not only on the remarkable insurance agency which he founded, but also in the hearts and minds of future generations. At the Gibault School south of Terre Haute, Forrest and Hazel Sherer Hall was dedicated last September, a lasting monument to their leadership during the last decade in spearheading the construction and financing of several new buildings.

The community organizations and activities Mr. Sherer participated in over the years are too many to mention. However, some stand out. He headed the Indiana State University Foundation for years, helping it get established as an important arm of the university's expansion program. He also served on boards at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

At the time of his death he was active as a member of the board of both Goodwill Industries and the YMCA.

Salty Seamon, artist

The watercolors of old Terre Haute done for the Forrest G. Sherer collection are the product of the pen of Omer D. "Salty" Seamon, perhaps Terre Haute's best known and most popular artist.

His eye for detail and authenticity is well known and his paintings exhibit them. He has a keen interest in history and the paintings have given him the opportunity to do research on a number of old buildings and events in Terre Haute.

Two more paintings are already completed for the Sherer series and more will probably be commissioned in the near future.

Earlier, he was one of the most important leaders for years in the Wabash Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America and was the recipient of both the Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope awards from the BSA.

Mr. Sherer was one of Terre Haute's success stories. He came to Terre Haute from rural Illinois shortly after high school. After working at a factory and in furniture sales, he began in the insurance business, liked it and soon opened his own agency.

He rode the interurbans and his bicycle and sole insurance to the working people of the Terre Haute area, building up a large clientele. His one-room office later turned into a large building and a staff of more than 50 persons. The insurance agency is now one of the largest in the midwest.

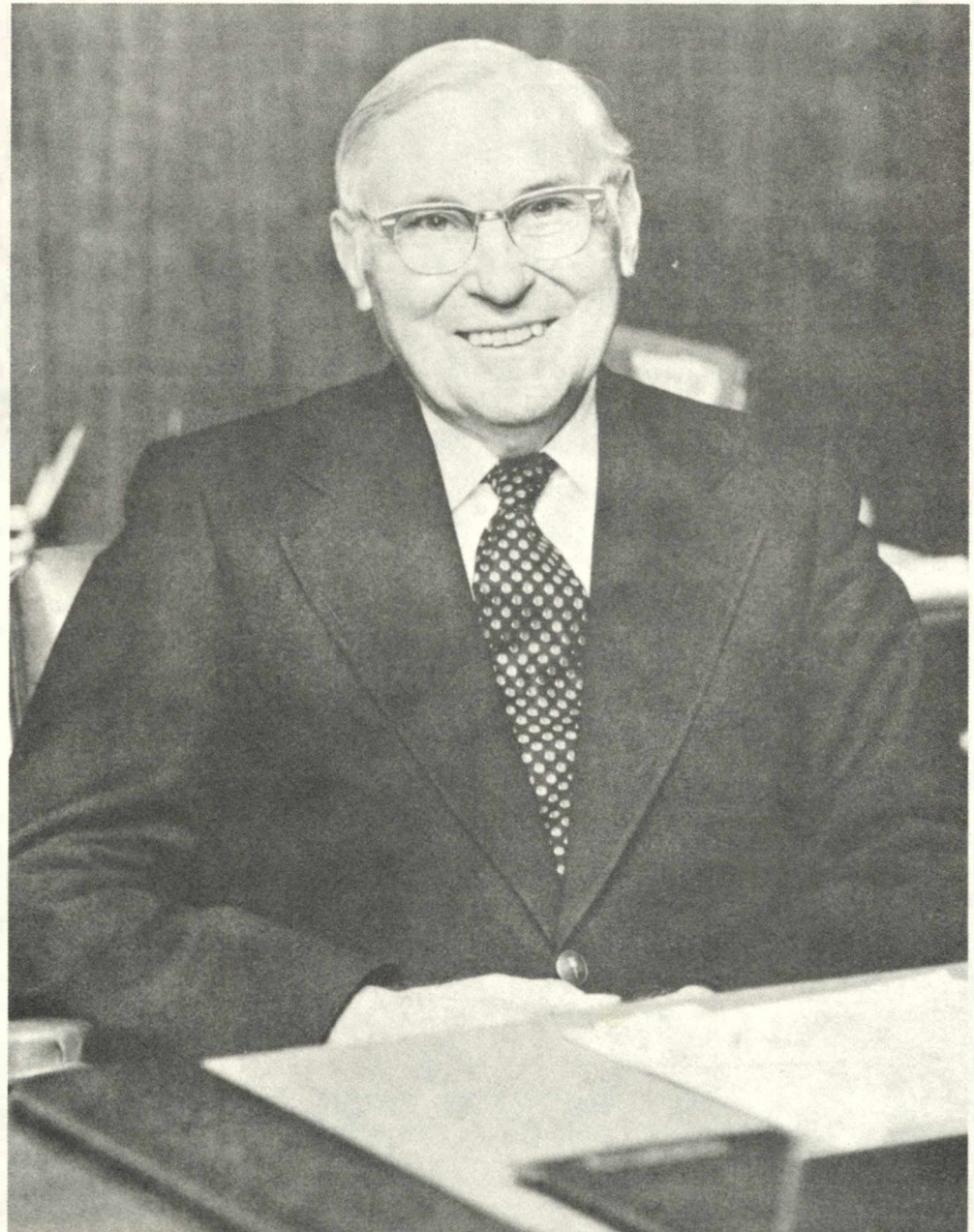
Over the years, many of his early customers prospered and looked to Mr. Sherer for help with their businesses.

"Business depends on friends," Mr. Sherer said a year ago. "If you choose good friends, you'll grow with them."

His firm did grow, and so did his involvement in the community of Terre Haute. His love for the history of Terre Haute was expressed in the decision to create the unique Christmas cards that the agency sends each year, four of which are reproduced in this week's *Spectator*.

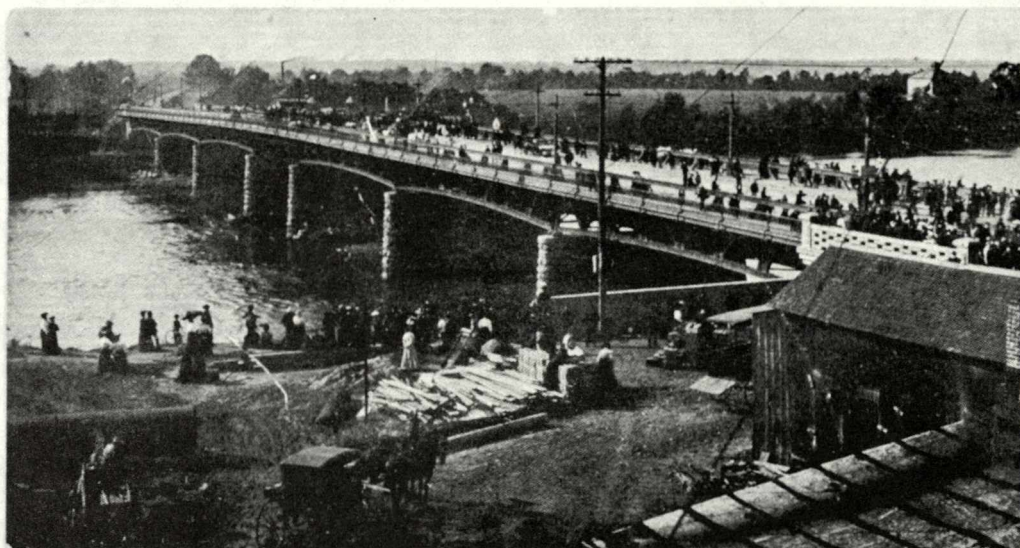
Wayne Sherer, Mr. Sherer's son, said this week that the agency expects to continue the tradition. "Salty Seamon has two more finished and we expect to get together with him after the first of the year and plan some more," Sherer said.

The cards have been extremely popular among Terre Hauteans. They are sent to clients of the agency each year and preserve a little bit of Terre Haute past, a Terre Haute that Forrest Sherer had a lot to do with. Terre Haute today and tomorrow will continue to show his imprint.



Forrest G. Sherer

Photo by American Visuals



Sunken Gardens, Henry Fairbanks Memorial Park, Terre Haute, Ind.



When the new Wabash River bridge, top, was opened, it was quite an event. A bit south of the bridge, the Sunken Gardens in Fairbanks Park delighted later residents of the city. In the early part of this century, people went to Lake View Park, bottom, on the city's east side to picnic and play games.



A Tradition of Service



1919 1136 Wabash Avenue - Standing seventh from the left, William Dodge, founder of Guarantee Roofing and grandfather of present owners Jack and Bill Ennis.



1930 20 North 11th - Guarantee Roofing moved to this larger location.



1955 20 North 11th - John Ennis carries on the second generation of Roofing Service.



1978 800 South 9th - The current location offers complete warehousing and training facilities.

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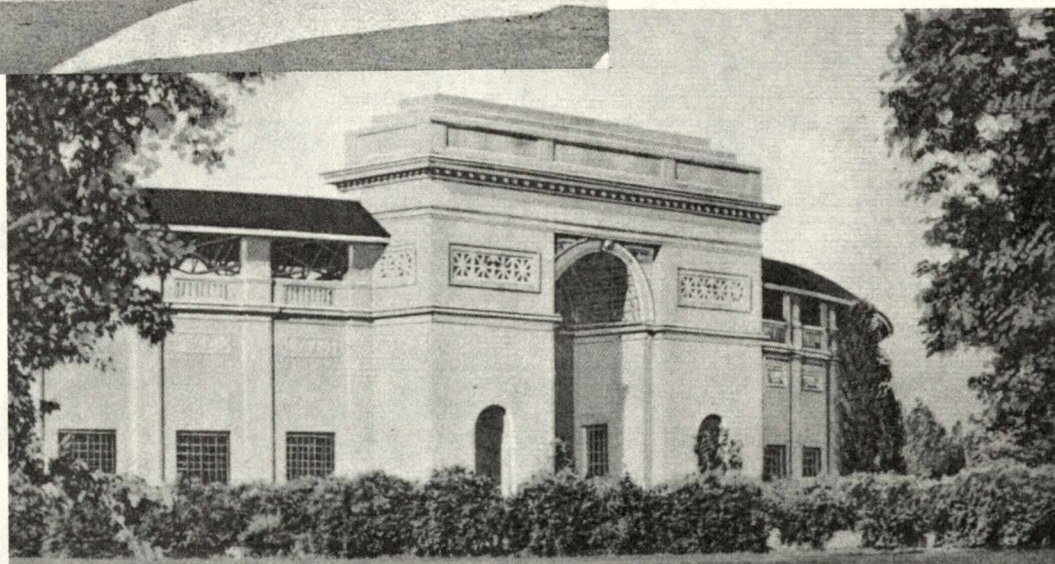
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The Fairbanks Library Building, top, was opened the year The Spectator started publishing -- 1904 -- and closed 75 years later. It is now the property of Indiana State University which is considering a future use. ISU also owns Memorial Stadium, right, which used to belong to the city. Only the arch remains now. A new football stadium is now on the site of the old baseball park.



Local landmarks

Jim's One Hour Cleaners Jim's Tux Shops

8th & Wabash
235-6039

K-Mart Plaza
232-3171

South
6th & Davis
Across from South High School
234-0706

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